Central American NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Central American Group of the Spanish Main Society.

Editor: Bernard Davies, 16, Lynwood Close, Gordon Road, South Woodford, London E18 1DP 01-504-5042

Issue No.1 September 1980

EDITORIAL

We send you the first issue of our Central American Newsletter, containing a Causerie of questions and observations on which we invite your comment, the first part of an article on the Surcharge Period of Nicaragua on which we invite your critical comment, and a Private Treaty list.

We apologise to collectors of Salvador and Honduras who find little to interest them in this issue. We hope to put matters right, next time, but in the event we are dependent on YOU to put your questions and comments to us for inclusion in the Newsletter.

We do, of course, need more CAUSERIE questions and answers from the NICARAGUA collectors, too. Without a continuous supply of questions, comments, short philatelic quotations, etc. we shall 'dry up'.

So - IT IS UP TO YOU, whether you collect Nicaragua, Salvador or Honduras, or all three, to chip in by;-

i) supplying us with 'copy'. No item too small, no question too insignificant. Don't feel you may make yourself look foolish; the odds are very strongly that ANY question you ask or comment you make has occurred to someone else at some time.

ii) keeping us supplied with offers for the PRIVATE TREATY lists.

iii) keeping us supplied with club books to circulate in the UK. We have already sent out the first batch. We propose to send from three to six books at a time, by Recorded Delivery, and we shall try our best to include only books of material from the countries you collect, thereby reducing postage costs.

For the time being, at least, costs come from your SPANISH MAIN subscription. (If you haven't paid John Fosbery, please do so quickly!) Thanks to those of you who have offered financial help; we shall let you know if we reach the stage where we need it, but if all goes well and you do what we ask of you above, the commission on private treaty and club book sales may keep us going, for the present. When you want a personal reply to any enquiry (as opposed to such reply as we can muster in the Newsletter) we would appreciate a stamped addressed envelope.

Please address your letters to;-

Bernard Davies,
16, Lynwood Close
Gordon Road,
SOUTH WOODFORD
London E18 1DP or phone 01-504-5042

Editor of the Central American Newsletter.

Secretary of the Spanish Main Society.

An open letter from John Fosbery;

The idea for a Central American Group started at our Carisbrooke Hall meeting during the London 1980 Exhibition. It is an integral part of the Spanish Main Society, and an endeavour to bring together members who collect this particular section of Latin American philately. The Newsletter is primarily angled to try to help make contact between collectors, to discuss problems and try to answer some of them, and thereby perhaps 'grow' articles for final presentation in MAINSHEET.

The Group starts off with Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras; we hope to add Costa Rica and Guatemala during the course of the season.

The success of this venture is entirely dependent upon positive reaction from interested collectors. I wish it and its promoters 'Good Luck'!

JOHN FOSBERY

THE INAUGURAL MEETING

of the Central American Group of the Spanish Main Society will be held

on Saturday 20th September

at

the VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

Seymour Street, off Marble Arch

11am to 4pm

PRIVATE TREATY OFFERS - NICARAGUA

All the following are lightly mounted mint unless otherwise stated.

N 1.		24 blocks of the centre vignettes of the Waterlow August 1947 issue postage and airs; unmounted mint.	£30
N 2.	SG683-7	GPO Reconstruction airs, used set of 5, probably cto	£16
N 3.	SG726-30	Rivas Railway postage	£16
N 4.	SG731-5	Rivas Railway airs fine used	£25
N 5.	SG744-8	Leon-Sauce Railway postage f.u.	£18
N 6.	SG766-76	Columbus from Palos airs. Set of 11	£16
N 7.	SG795-8	Int. air mail week, f.u. set of four	£4
N 8.	SG982-93	U.S. Constitution	£5
N 9.	SG1047-9	Rowland Hill	£23
N10.	SG1096-1106	Waterlow August 1947 postage set	£2
N11.	SG1107-1119	as above, the airmail set of 13	£7
N12.	SG1120-32	Baseball postage set of 13	£4½
N13.	SG1133-45	as above, the airmail set of 13	£8
N14.	SG438	Second Bluefields provisional, ex Stanley Daft f.u.	£4½

All private treaty enquiries to Bernard Davies; see page 6.

El Salvador Private Treaty offers on pages 4 & 6.

CAUSERIE

From Dr D.A.Pocock

1. SG396 (Cathedral 2c vermilion and small die) doubly surcharged VALE/ un centavo/ de cordoba. The copy shows part of a blue MANAGUA postmark. Technically it is SG440 except VALE is in capitals and the rest of the surcharge is much smaller lower case print. Anyone else know of this item? Yvert 397A + inv. + V in VALE inv. + VALE

2. SG626 (50c green Cathedral of 1931) overprinted OFICIAL in black as 1931 illustration type 0120 and additionally overprinted with the Deshon/Sevilla signatures. is STG 0704 0705 also exists with S/S

3. Signature overprints on November 1932 airmail surcharges ie 'Interior 1932' rather than the 1933 'Interior' surcharges in new colours. Interesting all my (4) copies are used being 2c/3c blue, 4c/5c sepia (2 copies) and 8c/15c vermilion. (See also 17) do not know

4. Signatures on Momotombos: 15c violet SG629. I have one that would seem to be a rubber stamp reading "Joy Joaul" in violet with underlining extending from the 'l' backwards to the loop of the middle 'J'. The second example also on SG629 is in black and apparently signed in ink, looks like "Geraid" with a long downwards tail to the 'd'. I would be happy to receive any details of identity and background that readers may know. Postmasters signatures in connection with stamp left Nov. 16, 1935 (see my article about VALIDO 1935) Have these stamps on several covers.

5. What happened to SG197/8 and 9? These are (or were) the 6 cent, 1 peso and 5 peso surcharges on the 10c lithographed volcano of 1902. 1969 part 3 includes them but their K-O overseas and latest Central American catalogue seems to have dropped them. Do we have evidence of their doubtful authenticity, because even that sobriquet does not condemn all such items to that seventh circle of philatelic damnation namely oblivion. Private surcharge

6. What is the significance of the two types of imprint on the 1894 postal stationery cards? These are for all cards (2c, 3c, 2c + 2c and 3c + 3c). Inscriptions are (a) Hamilton Bank Note Co., New York and (b) Hamilton Bank Note Eng & Ptg. Co., New York. These types are not mentioned by Higgins and Gage, nor do they seem to occur for any of the other years of the Seebeck contract. My used examples (all three) belong to type (b). (a) = REPRINTS

7. There are two styles of the 1925 Oficial overprint. There is the illustration SG0100 (Type A) where the head spot of the 'f' serves for the dot over the 'i' with the cross bar of the 'f' joining the top of the 'i'; the other (Type B) is a narrower 'f' where the upper loop is to the left of the 'i' and not joined to it, whilst the 'i' has a true dot above it. If type A is the correct overprint, I have found only type B on the 1c, 2c, 3c and 5c - the last named in a block of four. No doubt others will be able to extend this short list of denominations on which it is found. see note after Scott No O 282

8. We should compile a list of errors in Stanley Gibbons. One obvious springs to mind - the illustration numbered 072 for the 1911-12 coupon surcharges in which 1911 has been omitted as a fourth line. Yes
(Is not SG842a incorrect? Should not the invert be the second type Resello 1935 overprint, thus making the error SG880a? - Ed.) Yes, exists also on 879
→ have 849 with inv. Resello 1935

From Mr J.Whiteside

9. The 1913 provisionals: the large 0 in 10 on the 10c on 2peso locomotive stamp occurs in position 59.

10. SG385/6. The ats error does NOT occur at position 30 (or any other position?). It seems that this is another variety that may have been corrected during the printing run. The 'ats' error seems to be pretty scarce on the original surcharge. Yes, it does (can prove it. Have one on 385a)

11. I have several part sheets of some of the values of the 1913 issue. It seems apparent from these that most of the type fount varieties (like the large thick V and the allied large thick V and thick 0, the block seis etc.) occur in more or less vertical columns down the sheet. So what? Italic 0 in centavo is pos. 100

From an anonymous enquirer

12. Does anyone know of any literature relating to the Resello overprints of 1927 and 1928, or of 1935?

From Mr W.McRobert

13. How is it possible for one stamp in a panel of twenty (SG325) to be surcharged double one inverted? I can understand how sheets or part sheets could be accidentally overprinted twice, but not a single stamp. The font was loose and lifted and a light touch of the press made a double impression on these part stamps

From Mr B.Davies

14. Reference my article on the surcharge period herewith, does anyone know the explanation of how Waterlow were able to copy so exactly the ABN Co Arms issue? No, ask a skilled printer

15. It has been suggested that the school tax fiscals used for surcharging during the period to which my article refers were issued as school tax stamps in 1889 NOT 1902, quoting Forbin's catalogue as evidence. Does anyone know which date is correct? Furthermore Stroub mentions that the overprinted fiscals were ABN Co. Any information, please?.

16. What was the exact original purpose of the rail coupon stamps? A tax on the freight bill. Existed also in Switzerland and others

From Mr M.P.Birks

17. What is the status of SG0688-0692 with Deshon/Sevilla signatures? I have not seen 0690. Confirms

18. What is the status of SG533-5 with overprint in red? Were applied in 1933 and the 25 cent value was probably sold out

19. What was the sheet size and layout of the original rail coupons? Can they be found without either fiscal or postal surcharge? Probably yes. do not know

This is a genuine variety, but not listed. Have on ✉

PRIVATE TREATY OFFERS - EL SALVADOR

All the following are lightly mounted mint unless otherwise stated.

S 1.	SG761-3	San Salvador	£1
S 2.	SG783-6	Bolivar	£7
S 3.	SG792-5	Independence	£7
S 4.	SG806-9	Delgado f.u.	£3
S 5.	SG810-4	Palos	£5
S 6.	SG829	Games postage 15c ochre	£2½
S 7.	SG830	Games postage 37c green one straight edge	£3
S 8.	SG840	Games Habilitado postage 37c green	£5
S 9.	SG831-5	Games air set	£25
S10.	SG841-5	Games Habilitado air set f.u.	£16
S11.	SG858-62	San Vicente air set	£3
S12.	SG888-91	Canas	£4
S13.	SG908-9	Rowland Hill	£12
S14.	SG912-6	Coffee Tree	£5½
S15.	SG917-22	University	£8
S16.	SG933-8	Pres. Palace	£1
S17.	SG961-4	Arce	£3
S18.	SG965-76	Roosevelt	£3½
S19.	SGMS970a and 976a	Roosevelt souvenir sheets, pair	£3½
S20.	SG981-4	U.P.U.	£4

All private treaty enquiries to Bernard Davies; see page 6.

More El Salvador offers on page 6

OVERSEAS READERS: Was your envelope addressed correctly? If not, please use the enclosed envelope to send your corrected address.

NICARAGUA: THE SURCHARGE PERIOD

by Bernard Davies

Since the predominance of surcharges and overprints began in the age of the entrepeneurs, there is a sense in which "the surcharge period" may be said to have begun at the turn of the century and continued until the appearance of the Locomotive and Liberty sets in 1912. However, the entrepeneurs were dealt with in a previous article, and the Rail Coupon stamps were considered very thoroughly by Mr John Fosbery in Volume II, Number 8 of 'Mainsheet'. This article therefore covers the period July 1905 to June 1911.

The period opens with the 'Arms' issue, recess-printed by the American Bank Note Co., and ordered by the entrepeneur, Mr Nordenholt, apparently during 1903. Again the quantities ordered of the more commonly used values were inadequate unless speedy replacement was intended; moreover, the entrepeneur's usual payment was exacted - 5,000 of the centavos values; 10,000 or more of the peso values. The largest quantity ordered was 810,000 of the 5 centavos; only 310,000 of the 10 centavos and 60,000 of the 15 centavos were printed. As the issue appeared on the 11th July 1905 with its attendant official set, and as the postage set was also issued handstamped in Bluefields and Cabo (fig. 1), the shortages at the post offices began to make themselves felt very quickly; quite early in 1906 the 10, 15, 20 and 50 centavos stamps ran out and were provisionally replaced by the surcharging of lower values (fig. 2).

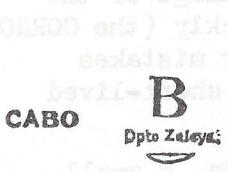

fig. 1

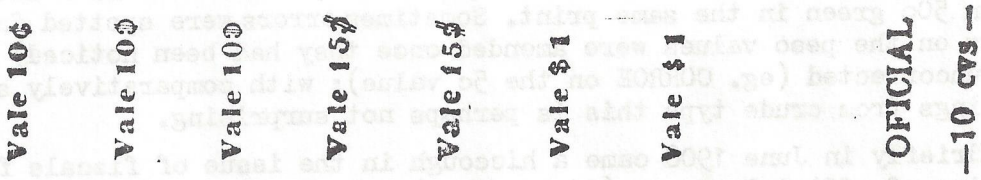

fig. 2

fig. 3

There are different founts of type, with different forms of the numbers '0' and '5', and the $ sign in the peso value; surcharges read up and down, generally because the double panes of 50 stamps were printed in two press operations, although this practice was not invariable and results in the comparative scarcity of the 20c and 50c values reading up.

The acute shortage of the commoner values of this set was remedied in May 1907 (for a brief while) by the appearance of a 'short set' of the 'Arms' issue, redrawn and produced by Waterlow. (Other values appeared in 1907 overprinted for use in the Zelaya offices). Whether the change of printer was due to some political quarrel with Nordenholt of whether the Nicaraguan authorities hoped to acquire an issue "on credit" while freeing themselves of obligation to the entrepeneur, the loss of all records in the 1931 earthquake prevents us from knowing. However, it appears that payment was required in advance, so that the Nicaraguan authorities ordered a ludicrously small number and were again out of 10c and 15c values by October of that same year, 1907; these were again created by surcharging, the provisionals on the Waterlow issue being in the same type-settings as used on the A.B.N. Co. issue in 1906.

Additionally No. 10 in the setting developed a split in the figure '1', which gives it the appearance of an inverted 'V', and the blue ink in the 10c on 50c surcharge varies from blue-black to pale blue. At this time shortages of official stamps also occurred and were met by a small printing of six values on the 1c of the Waterlow issue (fig. 3).

Before the end of 1907 the shortages of certain postage stamps were acute, and although the postal authorities sank whatever differences they had had with Mr Nordenholt, using him for what turned out to be the last time to acquire in 1909 a new printing by the A.B.N.Co. from the original plates of the 'Arms' issue, this was again ordered in hand-to-mouth quantities (eg, just over one million of the 10c and only 65,000 of the 6c). The vast majority of the stamps used from November 1907 until the Liberty issue of 1912 were surcharged fiscals.

First to appear was a large school tax stamp recess-printed by Waterlow in 1902, and issued overprinted and surcharged for official postage in November 1907 (fig. 4). Most values are found inverted, and various founts of letters and figures are to be found - most notably an upright 'C' in 'OFICIAL'. Then in June 1908 followed the smaller general fiscal stamp (again by Waterlow) overprinted and surcharged for postal use (Fig. 5);

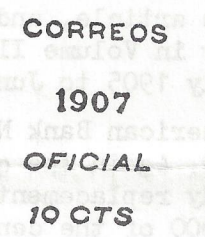

fig.4

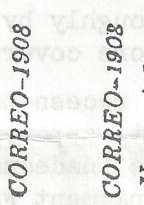

fig.5

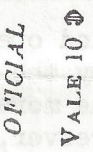

fig.6

most values are found double and inverted, there are constant errors 'CORROE' for 'CORREO' on the 5c, 1p and 2p, and ' ORREO' for 'CORREO' (missing C) on the 2c on 5c and 4c on 5c, and errors of the date (8909 on the 1c on 5c, 2c on 5c, 4c on 5c and 15c on 50c; 1008 on the same stamps). An overprint CORREOS - 1908/Vale 2c has the error 9c for 2c, but this was quickly corrected so that it is quite rare; even rarer is a double surcharge of the 10c on 50c green in the same print. Sometimes errors were spotted fairly quickly (the CORROE errors on the peso values were amended once they had been noticed) but other mistakes went uncorrected (eg. CORROE on the 5c value); with comparatively small and short-lived printings from crude type this is perhaps not surprising.

Briefly in June 1908 came a hiccough in the issue of fiscals for postage, a small printing of official stamps (five values) being made on the 3c violet of the 1905 A.B.N. Co. (fig. 6). These stamps were surcharged in yellow-ochre (not the most legible of colours!) the 35c value also receiving a black surcharge (a rare error, and an instance surely, of an error being a vast improvement on the real intention).

(To be continued)

PRIVATE TREATY OFFERS - EL SALVADOR

(continued from page 4)

S21.	SG985-90 Anniversary of Revolution	£3
S22.	SG991-4 Isabella	£1¼
S23.	SG995-1008Revolution & Constitution	£3½
S24.	SG1028-40 Independence	£1½
S25.	SG1071-85 Airs (1954)	£4
S26.	SG1092-1100 Santa Ana	£3
S27.	SG1101-9 Chalatenango	£1½
S28.	SG1110-21 Nueva San Salvador	£2½
S29.	SG1146-53 and the two souvenir sheets. Christmas	£2

(To be continued in our next news letter)

Orders for material from this list should be sent to Bernard Davies, whose address is on the front page. Assuming that the items are still available, they will be sent to you together with an invoice including postage, and this should be paid by RETURN.

Material for future lists is always welcome. Our commission rate is 10%.